

**What is claimed is:**

- 1) A Zn-Al eutectoid hot-dip galvanizing bath for stainless steel, where the galvanizing bath further comprises an alloy metal selected from the group consisting of Bi, rare-earth metals (RE's) or Si.
- 2) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 1 wherein the concentration of aluminum is from about 22.1% w/w to about 22.7% w/w.
- 3) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 2, wherein the concentration of the alloy metal is from about 0.1% w/w to about 0.4% w/w.
- 4) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 3, wherein the alloy metal is bismuth in a concentration of about 0.1% w/w.
- 5) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 3, wherein the alloy metals are rare earth metals at a total concentration of about 0.3% w/w.
- 6) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 5, wherein the rare earth metals consist of La at a concentration of about 0.13% w/w and Ce at a concentration of about 0.19% w/w.

- 7) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 3, wherein the alloy metal is Si in a concentration of about 0.3% w/w.
- 8) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 2 having a temperature of about 530°C to about 600°C.
- 9) The Zn-Al galvanizing bath of claim 8, wherein the dip time for such a bath is from about 60 to about 180 seconds.
- 10) A hot-dipped galvanized steel coating comprising:
  - a) an interface layer comprising binary  $Fe_2Al_5$ ;
  - b) an intermediate layer comprising a multiphase microstructure and consisting of a phase rich in Al and a phase rich in Zn; and
  - c) an overlay layer.
- 11) The hot-dipped galvanized steel coating of claim 10, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of Zn-Al, Zn-Al-Bi, Zn-Al-RE and Zn-Al-Si mixtures, and the concentration of the Bi, RE or Si is from about 0.1% w/w to about 0.4% w/w.

12) A process hot-dip galvanization of a steel article comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a Zn-Al galvanizing bath, wherein the concentration of the aluminum is from about 22.1% w/w to about 22.7% w/w;
- (b) adding an alloy metal to the galvanizing bath;
- (c) heating the bath to a temperature of about 530°C to about 600°C;
- (d) galvanizing said steel article by dipping it in the bath for a period of about 60 seconds to 180 seconds.

13) The process of claim 12 where the alloy metal is selected from the group consisting of Bi, rare-earth metals (RE's) or Si.

14) The process of claim 13 wherein the RE's are La and Ce.

15) The process of claim 14 where the alloy metal is in a concentration of about 0.1% w/w to about 0.4% w/w.